

What is claimed is:

1. A method for multicasting announcements in a communication network,
the method comprising:

- 5 establishing an address in a memory;
 forming an announcement; and
 broadcasting the announcement on the address.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating the address to a
device, and retrieving the announcement from the address.

15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the announcement is a tone.

4. The method of claim 4 wherein the tone is a call-ringing tone.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the tone is a call-routing tone.

6. A system for provide multicasting for announcements, the system
comprising:

- 20 a caller device;
 a proxy coupled to the caller device;
 a called party device, the called party device coupled to the proxy;
 an announcement server, the announcement server coupled to the proxy, the
announcement server continuously broadcasting selected announcements to an

address in a memory, the announcement server communicating the plurality of addresses to the proxy;

wherein the proxy communicates the address to the caller device; and

wherein the caller device retrieves the announcement from the address.

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7. The system of claim 6 wherein the announcement is a tone.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the tone is a ringing tone.

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9. The system of claim 7 wherein the tone is a call-routing tone.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein the message is an INVITE message.

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11. A method for multicasting announcements, the method comprising:

transmitting an INVITE message to a called party device;

receiving responsively to the INVITE message, a response message from the called party device, the response message including an RTP destination address; and

locating the RTP destination address and obtaining an announcement from the RTP destination address.

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein the announcement is a call-routing tone.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the announcement is a ringing tone.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the response message is a "100 Trying" message.

5 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the response message is a "180 Ringing" message.

10 16. A method for multicasting announcements, the method comprising:
 establishing an address;
 forming a plurality of announcements;
 playing each of the plurality of announcements to a distinct address in a
memory device; and
 allowing multiple entities to retrieve the announcement from any of the
distinct addresses.

15 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the announcement being played at a
particular address is switched substantially immediately to another announcement.

20 18. The method of claim 17 wherein each of the announcements is a tone.

 19. An announcement server comprising:
 means for initiating the broadcasting of announcements;
 means for determining an address to broadcast the announcements;

means for communicating the announcements to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and

means for broadcasting the announcements to the address.

- 5 20. A method for determining announcements, the method comprising:
- initiating the broadcasting of announcements;
- determining an address to broadcast the announcements;
- communicating the announcements to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and
- 10 broadcasting the announcements to the address.

 21. A system for multicasting announcements in a communication network, the system comprising:

- means for establishing an address in a memory;
- 15 means for forming an announcement; and
- means for broadcasting the announcement on the address.

 22. The system of claim 21 further comprising means for communicating the address to a device, and means for retrieving the announcement from the address.

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23. The system of claim 21 wherein the announcement is a tone.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the tone is a call-ringing tone.

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25. The system of claim 23 wherein the tone is a call-routing tone.

26. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

10 establishing an address in a memory;
 forming an announcement; and
 broadcasting the announcement on the address.

27. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

15 initiating the broadcasting of announcements;
 determining an address to broadcast the announcements;
 communicating the announcements to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and
20 broadcasting the announcements to the address.

28. A computer program for processing announcements, the program comprising:

- first code for establishing an address in a memory;
- 5 second code for forming an announcement; and
- third code for broadcasting the announcement on the address.

29. A computer program for processing announcements, the program comprising:

- 10 first code for initiating the broadcasting of announcements;
- second code for determining an address to broadcast the announcements;
- third code for communicating the announcements to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and
- fourth code for broadcasting the announcements to the address.

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